AMERICAN FEDERATION OF RAMALLAH, PALESTINE

P.O. BOX 2422 • LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48150

June 11, 1981

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The Honorable Alexander M. Haig, Jr.
Secretary of State
The State Department
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Words cannot begin to express our shock, chagrin, and condemnation of the unprecedented Israeli air strike against the Iraqi nuclear reactor located near Baghdad, Iraq.

In its irresponsible attack, Israel reportedly employed F15 and F4 Phantom jets supplied by the United States. This attack, unprecedented in character, constitutes a clear and unequivocal violation of the Arms Export Control Act and the 1952 mutual defense assistance agreement between Israel and the United States. The provisions of these laws mandate that all military aid to Israel by the United States be immediately suspended.

The Israeli air attack on the Osirak nuclear installation not only complicates the peace keeping mission of Philip C. Habib, but also handicaps broader efforts by the present administration to promote Arab-Israeli peace. As descendants of the original inhabitants of Ramallah, Palestine, located on the West Bank of the Jordan River, and as American citizens, we urge you to recommend an immediate arms embargo against Israel. Only through this severe, yet legally and morally mandated action, will the increasingly belligerent and reckless misconduct of the State of Israel be controlled.

The provisions of the above-referenced laws have been enforced against other violators. In December, 1974, military aid to Turkey was halted because of the Congressional determination that the Arms Export Control Act had been violated by Turkish use of American arms in its invasion of Cyprus. Subsequent to the invasion of Cyprus, Congress amended the Arms Export Control Act, requiring that the President promptly report to Congress any violations of arms agreements.

In 1952, the United States and Israel signed a mutual defense assistance agreement. In this agreement, Israel warrants that all equipment and materials supplied by the United States

> are required for and will be used solely to maintain its internal security, its legitimate self-defense, or to permit it to participate in the defense of the area of which it is a part, or in the United Nations collective arrangement and measures, and that it will not undertake any act of aggression against any other state.

(emphasis supplied).

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The Israeli air strike against Iraq is an undeniable and unconscionable active aggression which violates both the provisions of the agreement and the spirit with which these arms were supplied to Israel.

Under the provisions of the Arms Export Control Act, foreign military assistance should cease once the country utilizes American arms "in substantial violation (either in terms of quantities or in terms of the gravity of the consequences regardless of the quantities involved) of any agreement entered into."

These laws unequivocably require that you take the initiative in suspending all military aid to Israel. The American Federation of Ramallah, Palestine is an organization composed of 25,000 American citizens who trace their lineage to the town of Ramallah, located on the West Bank of the Jordan River. This area is currently occupied by the State of Israel. The members of the Federation are taxpaying American citizens residing in several states. As such, they have been repeatedly dismayed at the reluctance of previous Administrations and the Congress to enforce restrictions on Israel's use of American arms.

As American citizens, we urge you to enforce the laws and foreign policies of the United States uniformly and fairly. As Palestinian Arab-Americans, whose roots can be traced back for centuries to the Middle East, we implore you to do what no other Secretary of State has done: to apply the same rules of conduct to Israel which are applied to other recipients of United States military aid. Both the laws of the United States and the moral code upon which our great nation was founded require that you seek the suspension of all further military aid to Israel and recommend that the appropriate officials move for Israel's censure in the United Nations.

We would be delighted to meet with you or your representative at a mutually convenient time regarding the sources of our concerns.

Sincerely yours,

Jawad F. George

Jawad F. George
Federation President